

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Star Tech CORP

Manufacturing-Works

Star Tech Cuts Costs and Increases Sales With Lean Manufacturing

Client Profile:

Star Tech Corporation, located in Riverton, Wyoming, manufactures treadmill rollers. The privately owned corporation was established in 1989 and employs 40 people.

Situation:

Star Tech wanted to increase productivity, decrease inventory and improve efficiency in its manufacturing business to maintain its competitive edge in the marketplace. Star Tech had heard of Lean Manufacturing but didn't have the expertise in-house. Star Tech contacted the Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center (MAMTC), a NIST MEP affiliate, for help.

Solution:

MAMTC presented Lean 101 training sessions for Star Tech employees and management on-site. Included in the training was a live simulation of an electronics factory to illustrate how Lean works. The training introduced participants to the language and concepts of Lean Manufacturing. MAMTC then directed the company through a two day Value Stream Mapping (VSM) exercise of the manufacturing processes. During a VSM, a current state map is compared to a future state map to uncover any non-value-added steps. The company, with assistance from MAMTC, then began to make changes based on the results of the VSM using Lean concepts and techniques including cellular manufacturing. Star Tech implemented many lean concepts and made changes to their processes to decrease inventory, better allocate labor, and improve overall efficiency. Star Tech anticipates an increase in sales of \$400,000 and a \$40,000 decrease in inventory.

Results:

- * Anticipated sales increase of \$400,000.
- * Estimated decrease of inventory by \$40,000.
- * Improved efficiency.
- * Increased ability to respond to customer demand.

Testimonial:

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